

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 04897 161803Z

51

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3740

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, VS

SUBJECT: GVN SUSPENDS PARTICIPATION IN BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS
AT LA CELLE-ST. CLOUD

1. SUMMARY: IN RETALIATION FOR THE COMMUNIST CAPTURE OF
TONG LE CHAN THE GVN HAS INSTRUCTED ITS DELEGATION TO THE
LACELLE-ST. CLOUD BILTERAL TALKS TO SUSPEND ITS PARTICIPATION
UNTIL THE COMMUNISTS HAVE PROVED THEIR GOODWILL FOR PEACE
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 SAIGON 04897 161803Z

THROUGH CONCRETE ACTIONS. THIS WAS ANNOUNCED BY THE MINISTER

OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AT A SPECIAL PRESS CONFERENCE HELD APRIL 16 AND ALSO ATTENDED BY THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION HOANG DUC NHA AND THE GVN CHIEF DELEGATE TO THE TWO PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION (TPJMC), GENERAL PHAN HOA HIEP. THE TEXT OF THE DECLARATION HANDED OUT AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWS. AN ACCOUNT OF THE QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD AND OF A SEPARATE STATEMENT BY GENERAL HIEP FOLLOWS BY SEPTEL. END SUMMARY.

2. TITLE: DECLARATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM WITH REGARD TO THE CAPTURE OF THE TONG LE CHAN BASE BY THE COMMUNIST. END TITLE.

3. BEGIN TEXT: THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM WISHES TO INFORM THE GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLES OF THE WORLD OF THE FOLLOWING:

4. ON FEBRUARY 26, 1973, LESS THAN ONE MONTH AFTER THE AGREEMENT ON ENDING THE WAR AND RESTORING PEACE IN VIET-NAM WAS SIGNED IN PARIS, SEVERAL COMMUNIST REGIMENTS SUPPORTED BY ARTILLERY AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT UNITS BEGAN ENCIRCLING AND ATTACKING THE TONG LE CHAN BASE, A POSITION CONTINUOUSLY HELD BY THE ARMED FORCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, AT THE BORDERLINE BETWEEN THE TWO PROVINCES OF BINH LONG AND TAY NINH, 15 KM SOUTH-WEST OF THE DISTRICT TOWN OF AN LOC. THIS BRAZEN ACT OF THE COMMUNISTS SERIOUSLY VIOLATED THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLES 2, 3 AND 23 OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT, AND ARTICLES 1, 2 AND 19 OF THE PROTOCOL ON THE CEASE-FIRE IN SOUTH VIET-NAM.

5. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM HAS VIGOROUSLY DENOUNCED THESE COMMUNIST VIOLATIONS TO THE PARTIES TO THE PARIS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VIET-NAM AND TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF CONTROL AND SUPERVISION. LARGE SEGMENTS OF PUBLIC OPINION IN VIET-NAM AND ABROAD HAVE ALSO STRONGLY CONDEMNED THESE COMMUNIST ACTS OF AGGRESSION.

6. HOWEVER THE COMMUNISTS CHOSE TO IGNORE THE PROTEST OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM AS WELL AS THE INDIGNATION IN PUBLIC OPINION. THEY CONTINUED THEIR ATTACKS AGAINST THE TONG LE CHAN BASE, AND UP TO APRIL 12, 1974, THE SIEGE HAD LASTED A UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SAIGON 04897 161803Z

TOTAL OF 411 DAYS. FOR MORE THAN ONE YEAR, THE GARRISON HELD ON, THROUGH 37 FRONTAL ATTACKS, 29 INFILTRATIONS AND HARASSMENTS BY ENEMY SAPPERS AND 672 ARTILLERY BOMBARDMENTS TOTALLING MORE THAN 36,000 SHELLS OF VARIOUS CALIBRES.

7. THEN IN THE NIGHT OF APRIL 11 TO APRIL 12, 1974, THE COMMUNISTS MUSTERED THEIR FULL STRENGTH IN A COMBINED ATTACK. THEY BOMBARDED THE BASE WITH OVER 900 ARTILLERY SHELLS THEN

OVERRAN IT WITH MORE THAN 3,000 TROOPS.

8. THUS IN UTTER CONTEMPT FOR THE PARIS AGREEMENT OF JANUARY 27, 1973 ON THE CEASEFIRE AND THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF JUNE 13, 1973 WHICH REAFFIRMED THAT CEASEFIRE, THE COMMUNISTS HAVE NOT HESITATED TO DEPLOY IMPORTANT UNITS AND USE A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF WAR MATERIAL TO ENCIRCLE AND ASSAULT A BASE HELD BY THE ARMED FORCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM FOR MANY YEARS, AND TO CAPTURE THE TACTICAL AREA OF CONTROL PERTAINING TO THIS BASE.

9. THE CAPTURE OF THE TONG LE CHAN BASE CONSTITUTES A GROSS VIOLATION OF THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT AND A DANGEROUS ESCALATION OF THE HOSTILITIES, SINCE BY SEIZING TONG LE CHAN THE COMMUNISTS HAVE PENETRATED THE NORTH-WEST PERIMETER OF DEFENCE OF SAIGON AND THUS DIRECTLY THREATENED THE CAPITAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM.

10. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE SIEGE AND CAPTURE OF TONG LE CHAN DO NOT CONSTITUTE AN ISOLATED CASE OF VIOLATION BUT ARE PART OF A PLAN TO SYSTEMATICALLY AND DELIBERATELY SABOTAGE THE PARIS AGREEMENT OF JANUARY 27, 1973. INDEED THE COMMUNISTS HAVE COMMITTED SO FAR OVER 42,000 VIOLATIONS OF THE CEASEFIRE, THE MOST SIGNIFICANT BEING THE CAPTURE OF THE BASES OF LE MINH, BUBONG, BU PRANG, KHIEM HANH, BACH MA, AND THE TOWN OF KIEN DUC AND THE SIEGE OF DUC HUE DISTRICT TOWN. THEY HAVE ALSO CLANDESTINELY INTRODUCED INTO SOUTH VIET-NAM SOME 100,000 ADDITIONAL TROOPS, 600 TANKS AND 600 PIECES OF HEAVY ARTILLERY. THEY HAVE REPAIRED AND BUILT TWELVE MILITARY AIRFIELDS IN SOUTH VIET-NAM, AND OPENED NEW CORRIDORS OF INFILTRATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PREPARING ANOTHER GENERAL OFFENSIVE. THEY HAVE HAMPERED THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF CONTROL AND SUPERVISION, AND REFUSED TO CONTRIBUTE THEIR

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 SAIGON 04897 161803Z

SHARE TO THE OPERATING BUDGET OF THAT BODY. THEY HAVE MULTIPLIED ACTS OF TERRORISM AIMED AT CIVILIANS, THE MOST BARBAROUS OF WHICH WAS THE SHELLING OF THE CAI LAY PRIMARY SCHOOL ON MARCH 9, 1974 IN WHICH NEARLY 100 CHILDREN WERE KILLED OR INJURED. AT THE LA CELLE-ST. CLOUD CONFERENCE, THE COMMUNISTS REFUSED EVEN TO DISCUSS THE VERY CONCRETE AND CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSALS PUT FORTH BY THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM WITH A VIEW TO ENSURING THE RIGHT TO SELF DETERMINATION OF THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH VIET-NAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PARIS AGREEMENT.

11. ALL THOSE REPEATED VIOLATIONS OF AN EXTREME GRAVITY CLEARLY SHOW THAT THE COMMUNISTS HAVE NO INTENTION OF SERIOUSLY IMPLEMENTING THE PARIS AGREEMENT OF JANUARY 27, 1973, OR ACCEPTING TO NEGOTIATE AN OVERALL POLITICAL SOLUTION TO

THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PROBLEM, BUT THAT ON THE CONTRARY, THEY ARE STILL BENT ON TAKING OVER SOUTH VIET-NAM BY FORCE.

12. THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM CANNOT STAY STILL WHILE THE COMMUNISTS BRAZENLY AND OVERTLY DESTROY PEACE IN SOUTH VIET-NAM. THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM CANNOT REMAIN IDLE AND ALLOW THE COMMUNISTS TO CONTINUE TRAMPLING UNDERFOOT THE PARIS AGREEMENT WHILE CLAMORING THAT THEY ARE RESPECTING AND IMPLEMENTING IT.

13. THEREFORE THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM HAS INSTRUCTED ITS DELEGATION TO THE LA CELLE-ST. CLOUD CONFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTIES TO SUSPEND ITS PARTICIPATION UNTIL THE COMMUNISTS HAVE PROVEN THEIR GOODWILL FOR PEACE THROUGH CONCRETE ACTIONS.

14. THIS DECISION OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM DOES NOT MEAN ANY DOWNGRADING OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT OF JANUARY 27, 1973. ON THE CONTRARY, IT IS AIMED AT ENSURING THAT THE AGREEMENT BE IMPLEMENTED MORE SERIOUSLY AND MORE CORRECTLY. INDEED, ONLY A DETERMINED STAND OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM, WITH THE SUPPORT OF LARGE SEGMENTS OF PUBLIC OPINION ABROAD, COULD CONVINCE THE COMMUNISTS THAT THE USE OF FORCE SHOULD GIVE WAY TO SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS IN ORDER TO END THE WAR AND RESTORE GENUINE PEACE IN SOUTH VIET-
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 SAIGON 04897 161803Z

NAM.

15. THE COMMUNISTS MUST BEAR FULL RESPONSIBILITY OF THEIR HOSTILE ACTIONS AND MUST RENOUNCE THEM, IF THE PROVISIONS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT ARE TO BE FULLY IMPLEMENTED. SAIGON, APRIL 16TH, 1974. END TEXT.
MARTIN

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